

## ssified continued from page 6

The Battalion

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## CINEMARK THEATRES HOLLYWOOD USA COLLEGE STATION 1401 E. BYPASS 764-7592 HOWS FRI. & SAT. FOR ALL SHOWS AFTER TI P.M. ISR 92.1 LATE SHOWINGS FRIDAY AND SATURDAY EREO SURROUND SOUND IN ALL AUDITORIUMS SHOWS BEFORE 6 PM AND AFTER 11 PM SENIORS & CHILDREN - \$6 ADULTS SHOW TIME SCHEDULE BEEN KISSED (PG13) 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:40 10:15 12 12:20 2:45 5:15 7:55 10:30 1: T OF TOWNERS (PG13) 11/45 2:10 4:30 7:00 9:25 12: NGS HATE/YOU (PG13) 12:05 2:35 5:05 7:50 10:10 12: OF NATURE (PG13) 11:35 2:00 4:40 7:25 10:05 12: OF NATURE (PG13) 11:35 2:00 4:40 7:25 10:05 12:

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# Foreign exchange students experience small town life, hospitality, learn English

KINGSVILLE, [AP] — Moscow lawyers and Japanese businessmen walk the streets of downtown Kingsville, nabbing passersby to practice their English.

For many, it is the first time they have lived in a small town, and will probably be their only experience of small-town America, said Gary Gunderson, director of the English Language Institute on the campus of Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

"Our students come from places like Tokyo and Istanbul, and Kingsville is a very foreign, different experience for them," Gunderson said.

Hiroe Sakuma, 28, an interior designer from Yokohama, Japan, travels frequently to Greece, China and France, but she returned to Kingsville for her vacation this year after completing course work at the institute.

'I visited New York, but everybody is too busy there to help me practice my English. Here, people have time," Sakuma said. "It is hard to get used to it, though. In Yokohama or Tokyo you have to race across the street. Here, people wave you in front of their cars so you can pass. That is amazing.

Other students are not quite as taken with the charms of small-town Texas.

Yael Chouraqui, 24, is studying for her doctorate in communications in Marseilles, France, and works as a disc jockey in France. She said she needs English for her job and was attracted to Kingsville because of the warm weather and the inexpensive cost of living. But she was not prepared to live in the Bible Belt.

"People try to convert me at the grocery store. They aren't having any luck," Chouraqui said. "Kingsville is very, very boring, but because they are bored they are friendly. That makes it a good place to practice English."

The English Language Institute operated by Sylvan Learning Systems Inc, was formed to help foreign students learn English quickly so they could do well in their classes.

Although most of the students are middle class professionals from big cities, there is variety, Gunderson said. "We have had all kinds of people,"

he said. "We have had Arab princes who came to classes with two bodyguards and a chauffeured car. We have had vice presidents of the biggest oil companies in South America.

Studying in Kingsville may seem like an odd choice for someone from Seoul or Sao Paulo, but oddly, it works, Gunderson said.

"I am sure they feel the same way I felt when I got off the plane in Corpus Christi," said Gunderson, who was stationed at Naval Air Station Kingsville before he retired. "My wife said we were going back to Hawaii as soon as I retired. But now you couldn't drag us away. We love the people and the sense of community here.

Kingsville, along with San Francisco, Boston and Chicago are marketed in a Sylvan brochure aimed at foreign businessmen and students.

Kingsville is touted as a small, safe town where modern cowboys are a common sight, the skies are blue and the weather is warm.

The small town atmosphere, which might seem boring to many Americans, is picturesque and exciting to people who have never experienced a rural environment, Gunderson said.

The friendly residents also make the students welcome, and life is slowpaced enough for students to find people willing to take time to help them in English conversation, he said.

One Japanese couple who met at the institute even returned to Kingsville for their honeymoon, he said.

"They learn a lot more than language," Gunderson said. "In Tokyo, you pay \$5 to go inside a courtyard in a hotel to watch fireflies imported from the countryside. The Japanese students are surprised that I have fireflies in my backyard, for free. We are teaching them a lot about learning about the simple pleasures of life.

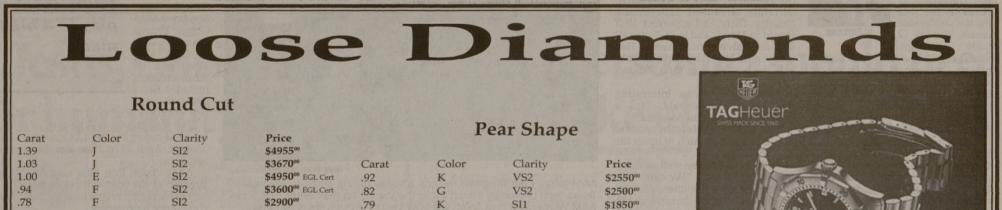
# **Fire power**



WIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Page 7 • Friday, April 9, 1999

Johnny Ward, a fireman for the city of College Station, turns on a West Campus hydrant. A whole crew of city officials were on hand practicing a defensive fire control maneuver in full gear.



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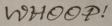
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